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| Chief of Station, Mexico City | | | ABSTRACT | | |
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REQUIRED - REFERENCES

Reference: a. HMMA 21434

ъ. HMMA 21080

- 1. Since the LIFEAT Project Renewal Request forwarded by reference (a) contained a thorough review of the LIFEAT project for the entire project year through May 1963, most of the items of interest to the project were included in the review through that date. The following report contains those items not fully reported or not included in that review plus items of interest occurring during June 1963. Except for the above noted period, LIFEAT progress reports generally will be forwarded on a monthly rather than a quarterly basis.
- 2. The following report is submitted in accordance with CSFiB-F 52-6-1, section V, paragraph 2 (d) (1).

A. EXPLOITATION OF LEADS

(1) LIFEAT/Soviet - During the reporting period LIFEAT has continued its daily coverage of the home phones of two known Soviet intelligence officers. Information and leads from this coverage provide the interested Station Officer with a valuable check on the Soviet contacts of several KUBARK controlled double agents. There is also provided the type of information on daily activities of Soviet personnel without which the planning for and successful completion of the technical surveillance operation against one of these Soviets would have been impossible, Station believes that LIFEAT contribution to the success of this operation deserves particular mention.

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- (2) LIFEAT/Polish LIFEAT support to the BERNAVE/BECHICK operation in recent months has been particularly noteworthy in providing travel plans of BERNAVE. During the intensified efforts against BERNAVE in the coming month plans for periodic live-monitoring by LIFEAT have been completed and should provide a valuable support to this operation.
- (3) LIFFAT/Yugoslav Of continued interest to the Station has been the information concerning the locations being considered by the Yugoslav mission for a new embassy. Station planning for a technical operation in this area has depended heavily on LIFFAT leads.
- (4) LIFEAT/Cuban LIFEAT coverage in the AMSTRUT case provides a window to the operation which is of interest to WAVE and Headquarters. (Transcripts from these two lines are forwarded semi-weekly to the interested Headquarters component and WAVE.) LIFEAT coverage of the home of a Cuban Commercial Attache provides information of interest concerning Cuban commercial contacts and purchases.
- (5) LIFEAT/Exile LIFEAT coverage of ESIARD-1 has been most rewarding in terms of his contacts, travel, and future plans. This information has been of interest to Headquarters. LIFEAT has exerted every effort to provide continuing coverage of this target even when ESIARD-1 resided in a hotel under an alias and following his move to new quarters. Coverage by LIFEAT was especially difficult during E-1's stay at the hotel since the technical problems were considerable and the processing of all calls to and from the hotel in order to extract E-1's calls was a heavy burden on the LIFEAT processor/translator staff. It is noted that in Station's opinion the LIFEAT complex showed up particularly well in this assignment.

LIFEAT coverage of Judith FERRETO Segura has been especially fruitful concerning the travel and contacts of Costa Rican Communists, including their travel to Cuba. It has also provided some leads concerning ZRKNICK operation.

- (6) LIFEAT/American Communist Group in Mexico (ACGM) During the reporting period local ODENVY requested that LIFEAT coverage be initiated on David DRUCKER, prominent member of the ACGM. Product from this coverage, in conjunction with that coverage already being provided on Charles SMALL (aka SMOLIKOFF), is valuable to ODENVY in providing data on U.S. Communists who travel to Mexico and contact the members of the ACCM. Information is also provided on the daily activities and contacts of members of the ACCM.
- (7) LIFEAT/Miscellaneous Coverage of a former SMOTH agent at the request of Headquarters resulted in the knowledge that this former agent was in contact with a number of Soviet Satellite personalities and was exerting a strong influence on a friend of his, a PBPRIME citizen employed as the local representative of a well known PBPRIME news media. It became apparent that the PBPRIME citizen, through his connection with the news media, was being encouraged by the former SMOTH agent in an attempt to "destroy" the senior ODACID official in Mexico. Early warning to this official resulted in action which greatly diminished the effect of this effort. Coverage of both the former SMOTH agent and the PBPRIME citizen is being continued.

| LIFEAT coverage was also placed on the private office of a | • |
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| Mexican army General based on a lead that he was the contact of | |
| former who was guiding | ; |
| a number of Mexican army officers of troop command rank who would. | sup- |
| port in any show of force. LIFEAT coverage, however, pro | - , |
| vided no information of value and was discontinued; | |



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B. PROCESSING OF TAKE

Due to the heavy workload shared by the present LIFEAT processor/ translator staff, it was decided that an additional agent was needed for these duties. Station review of a number of agent candidates to fill this position was uncertaken and one individual was selected. See paragraph 2 C below.

C. PERSONEL

Provisional operational approval was requested on LIFEUD-28 on 29 May 1963 to fill the need noted in paragraph 2 B above. Recruitment will be undertaken when such approval is received.

At the end of May 1963. LIFEUD-1 was called into the offices of the and told that since he has passed the retirement age (LIFEUD-1 is 63 years old) "room must be made for younger men". A retirement payment was agreed upon which, when all benefits are included, equals to approximately 70 to 80 percent of LIFEID-1's base salary. After the retirement plan was agreed upon, in a private conversation, asked LIFEUD-1 to accept a special commission as part-time investigator conserned with administrative personnel at 1,000 pesos per month. LIFEUD-1 accepted this commission.

The above action will reduce LIFEUD-1's access to the where most LIFEAT tap were made. The extent of this reduction can only be determined after LIFEUD-1 works his special commission for a period of time. As a preliminary opinion, and not a final decision, it is believed that LIFEUD-1's knowledge of and contacts coupled with his new position as personnel investigator, will continue to make his contribution to the LIFEAT project valuable and possibly unique. (See paragraph 2 E below re security aspects of LIFEUD-1's retirement).

D. LIAISON

In late May 1963 local ODENVY requested coverage be instituted on David DRICKER. COPENTY is to process the take as on other ACCH coverages. This coverage was installed 2 June 1963. No other change from that noted in reference (b).

E. SECURITY

(1) In the security area the retirement of LIFEUD-1 and the events surrounding it have produced two dangers to the operation which effect both security and efficiency. The first of these involves Formerly the reduction of LIFEAT access to the LIFEUD-1 could, by calling the for LIFELD-16 to enter a and while engaged in normal work on a LIFFAT target line. Tapping there establish a tap is not always possible, but has become the standard method used in LIFEAT operations. It is considered less time consuming and somewhat more secure than tapping through Secondly, LIFEUD-1, prior to retirement, could backstop the presence of the LIFEAT (LIFEUD-2 and LIFEUD-3) in areas of the city outside their normal work areas while these agents worked on the LIFEUD-1's retirement diminishes and removes the "protection" LIFEUD-1 LIFEAT access to the provided to the

In a related incident during a discussion of his retirement with LIFETD-1, it became apparent that he believed that LICOACH was providing backup protection to the entire LIFEAT complex. LIFEUD-1 based this assumption on the fact that at one time he had discussed providing LIFEAT with high level protection with a former LIFEAT Case Officer and later learned that this Case Officer had visited LTCOACH on a number of occasions. From this LIFEUD-1 deduced that LICOACH was in contact with the former LIFEAT Case Officer in order to provide protection for LIFEAT activities. LIFEUD-1 hizself never

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